maintenance of one million tonnes of buffer stocks would be Rs. 0.75 crores per day.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to dispose off the excess stock are indicated in the Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to Dispose of the Excess Stock of Foodgrains

(i) The scale of issue for APL, BPL and Antyodaya households has been increased to 35 from 25 kg. per household per month.

(ii) The scale of issue for all welfare institutions are hostels has been fixed uniformly @ 15 kg. per head per month. An additional allocation equal to 5% of the BPL allocation of States/UTs on this account has been made for the year 2002-2003 at BPL, CIP.

(iii) To increase export of wheat and rice including luster lost wheat, provide WTO compatible subsidies for exports of wheat, wheat products and rice.

(iv) To remove quantitative restrictions on the exports of rice, wheat and wheat products, subject to the condition that the stocks in the Central Pool will not be lower than the buffer stock of 243 lakh MTs (100 lakh MTs of rice and 143 lakh MTs of wheat) at any point of time.

(v) To extend commodity assistance in the form of foodgrains to other countries on terms to be decided on a case-to-case basis.

Procurement of foodgrains in Tripura

1684. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has any plan to procure foodgrains in Tripura during the current harvesting season;

(b) if so, the number and locations of the purchasing centres selected alongwith support price thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As reported by the FCI there are no procurement prospects in Tripura State in view of its hilly terrain and "Jhum" cultivation adopted in the State, at present.

Allotment of damaged wheat to Rajasthan for cattle feed

1685. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Government of Rajasthan for allotment of damaged wheat free of cost from the FCI for being used as cattle feed in view of scarcity of fodder in the State due to prevailing drought situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Rajasthan had asked for an allocation of 30,000 MT of feed category foodgrains free from Aflotoxin and Mycotoxin for cattle feed on free of cost basis.

(c) The required quantity of feed category foodgrains has already been allotted to the Government of Rajasthan on free of cost basis. The stocks are being released to the State Government after getting them tested for Aflotoxin and Mycotoxin.

Sugar industry crisis in Uttar Pradesh

†1686. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Sugar Mill Association has demanded Central intervention in order to rescue the crisis ridden sugar industry of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.